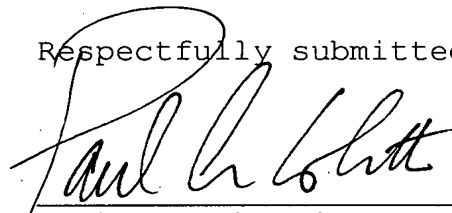


struts, so 35 USC §102 does not apply. As for 35 USC §103, Leone chooses to resolve a method of eluting drugs by inserting them through the center of the stent. The present invention uses the stent surface. Leone does not render the claimed invention obvious.

Applicants request allowance of all the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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